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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ASPULL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1955



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
ASPULL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1955

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health—

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—

To September: T. SPENCER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

From October: R. R. T. MORTIMER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.,
Meat Inspectors' Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Urban District Council of Aspull

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Aspull.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Aspull Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1955.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and I would also like to extend my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,
Medical Officer of Health

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area: 1906 acres.

Population (Census 1951): 6522.

Estimated mid-1955 (Registrar General): 6570

Total Number of Houses: 2024.

Rateable Value: £21,992.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £85.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries: One Cotton Mill and One Engineering Works.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate	47	43	90
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Still Births—Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	4	1	5
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	3	1	4
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :			
Total (all forms)—			
Crude Rate ... ..	...	...	12.9
Adjusted Rate ... ..	...	...	15.4
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	Nil
Malignant neoplasms, etc. ... ..	...	...	1.83
Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population—			
Crude Rate ... ..	...	...	14.00
Adjusted Rate ... ..	...	...	13.7
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births ... ..	...	...	21
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ...	...	...	Nil
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	54
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	43

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1955.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1
Diabetes	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6
Coronary disease, angina	6
Other heart disease	28
Other circulatory disease	2
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	6
Bronchitis	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2
Congenital malformations	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1
All other accidents	4
Suicide	1

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1955 reports were made to the authority on 25 examinations of milk and 3 of water.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA :

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 3 bacteriological examinations and one chemical analysis of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

During the second half of the year the water supply became insufficient in one part of the district due to encrustation of the main. Steps are being taken to remedy this.

No. of houses with piped supply				
direct from the public water main	...	...	...	2024
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc.	...	...	...	Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	...	...	...	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 14 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation. The installation of a septic tank for 4 cottages was completed during the year.

During the year 79 inspections were made in connection with drainage and conversions.

Number of choked drains cleared by the Authority	...	27
--	-----	----

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was:—

Number of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	1956
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	13
Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

One driver and 4 labourers are engaged whole time on refuse collection work. An adequate service has been maintained during the year. All refuse is tipped at the Marsh House tip.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,140 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied ...	...	86,000
„ „ „ pail closets emptied ...	...	600
„ weight of refuse removed (tons) ...	...	2,735

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects:—

No. of Informal Notices served ...	...	...	...	136
No. of Statutory Notices Served ...	...	...	...	43
No. of Statutory Notices complied with ...	...	...	...	40
No. of Defects and nuisances found ...	...	...	...	370
No. abated ...	...	...	...	245

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravans or sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 2 factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 8 houses infested with bed bugs were disinfested with 5% D.D.T. Spray and D.D.T. Fumers. This treatment has proved highly efficient.

RODENT CONTROL

32 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer tests and treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted	M/C line No.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	6	12	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises).	3	1	2	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		7	14	—	—	

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

11 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and 6 inspections were made under the Acts. 3 new 1,000 gallon storage tanks were installed during the year.

4. HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and are constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are married couples having to live with parents. 62 new housing applications were received during the year, of which 14 were applications for old peoples' bungalows.

During the year 16 old peoples' bungalows built by Contract, and 16 houses built by the Council's Direct Labour Department were completed and tenanted.

At the end of the year two housing schemes were in hand (a) for 8 two bedroom type houses and (b) for 18 two bedroom type houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i) By the Local Authority	32
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	8

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	379
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	379
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—	
(a) No. found during the year	64
(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	58
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	91

2. CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year:—	
(a) Unfit houses	—
(b) Other houses	—
(2) No. of persons displaced	—

3. HOUSES NOT INCLUDED in Clearance Areas:—

(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:—

	Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(a) Housing Act, 1936:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	3	7
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force ...	—	—
(iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	2	6
(b) Housing Act, 1949:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) ...	—	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) ...	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

	No. of Houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ...	101
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners ...	22
(ii) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners ...	—
(ii) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents, Act, 1954:—	
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	—

4. UNFIT HOUSES in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	—
(2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above ...	—

(3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary accommodation (Section 6) —

5. HOUSING ACT, 1949—Improvement grants, etc.:—

No schemes were submitted by private individuals to the local authority or by the local authority to the Ministry during the year.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

During the year licences under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, were issued to the following:—

Dealers in Sterilised Milk	20
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk	2
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ...	2
No. of registered distributors	2

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	No Result
(a) Raw Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests 7 (Neg.) 3 (Pos.) 1	7	3	1	3
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests 7	7	6	1	—
(iii) B. Coli. examinations 5	5	5	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests	—	—	—	—
(b) “Heat treated” Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis 1 (Neg.) 1 (Pos.) —	1	1	—	—
“Pasteurised”—				
(ii) Phosphatase tests 2	2	2	—	—
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests 2	2	2	—	—
“Sterilised”—				
(iv) Turbidity tests 1	1	1	—	—

As a result of Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries following a notification of tuberculous milk, the whole herd, which had been sold, was traced and one animal was slaughtered on the purchaser's premises. 3 animals had been sold and slaughtered.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :

There is one small private slaughterhouse in the district at which 39 carcasses were inspected during the year. The bulk of the meat supply to the district is from wholesalers in the County Borough of Wigan.

The following table records the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	5	15	—	—	19	—
No. inspected	5	15	—	—	19	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	9	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	40%	60%	—	—	5.3%	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	6	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	20%	40%	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following is a list of food premises within the district :

Type of Business

General grocers and provision dealers	30
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	7
Fried fish shops	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	7
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar catering establishments	27

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was as follows :

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream ...	19
Preserved etc., food premises	4

All ice-cream sold from the above premises is pre-packed.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the district in 1955.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 108.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1955. Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided at the clinic, and during the year 74 pre-school children and 48 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria. In addition 88 children were given a secondary or booster injection.

Of the above mentioned pre-school children 70 were immunised against Whooping Cough either with Whooping Cough vaccine only, or a combined (Diphtheria-Pertussis or Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1955.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for phrophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of houses is carried out with formaldehyde, and bedding and clothing are steam disinfected by arrangement with Hindley Urban District Council.

CANCER

12 deaths (9 males and 3 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS — YEARS									65 and over
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—		
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excl. Rubella)	69	1	17	32	19	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	27	—	7	13	7	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia											
(prim. and Infl'zal) ...	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
T.B. Other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
TOTAL ...	108	1	25	47	27	—	—	2	3	3	

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis registered in 1955.

The table below shows notifications by age-group for 1955 :—

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES

Age Period (Years)				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F
25—35	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
45—55	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...			—	1	—	—
TOTALS				2	1	—	1
				3		1	

